

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2016-17 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of January 9, 2017

WALK-IN AREAS

No reports this week from the walk-in fields west of 1804 and down into the west side of Okobojo Creek, however birds have continued to hold a small area of water open in the creek, with some days seeing birds going over the fields along 1804 last week and weekend.

REGISTRATION AREA

Hunters in the decoy only registration fields are reporting back on mixed success with the weather playing a big role on everything from time the birds will fly to what areas they will be flying to. Access into a lot of the fields remains good; we will be continuing to work on the trails going into the fields to keep them as accessible as possible. The winds that seem to be changing directions each day has made it challenging to keep some areas open however there are several areas where the trails have continued to be good.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

No hunter reports from any of the pass shooting areas this week, most of the bays have frozen over which made the birds find other areas with open water.

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

The flight of birds going out west of Ft. Pierre has slowed. The area continues to see groups of hunters setting out decoys in the field and having some success. Access into the fields is tough though with some hunters using a snowmobile or UTV down the designated trails to get their decoys out or pulling a sled out into the field with decoys and setting up. The flight of birds East of Grey Goose Road through the solid and striped green areas has been hit and miss depending on the wind direction and speed.

SUMMARY

Hunters have been reporting in with mixed success in most of the areas, with weather conditions playing a big role. Most of Lake Oahe froze over this past week when we had the cold weather move through, there are some pockets of water in a few bays where the birds were able to keep an area open.

The 27th Annual Youth Goose Hunt took place this past weekend January 6-8 with just under 100 kids participating in the event. Even with the tough hunting conditions most of the kids got birds, some for the first time. But most importantly all of the kids learned a lot about gun safety all while participating in the event while learning about decoy placement, blind concealment, flagging and calling. The Saturday evening seminar was a hit again this year with most of the kids and parents attending. This year was a question and answer session where kids and parents spent more than an hour asking questions to the group of helpers and hearing some goose calling. The evening was finished up with giving out the numerous hunting related items to the kids. The weekend saw close to 16 gallons of chili consumed, 500 hotdogs, over 20 dozen cookies, 20 bags of assorted flavored chips, along with several cases of water and pop.

The women's goose hunt will be taking place in the Pierre area January 20, 21 and 22 with a couple of openings for the event remaining, for more information about this event contact Maggie Lindsey, Education Services Coordinator at 605-223- 7667. This event has a limited number of participants they can handle, so pre-registration is required.